

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

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Steve Couture

Rivers Coordinator
NH Department of
Environmental Services

September 12, 2008

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

RE: Cocheco River Nomination under RSA 483

Dear Commissioner Burack:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) completed its review of the Cocheco River nomination under RSA 483 at its September 5th meeting. The Committee voted to recommend that the Cocheco River be designated into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP), as proposed in the nomination with the minor clarifications identified during the review process.

The nomination to include the Cocheco River into the RMPP was submitted for consideration on May 29, 2008. Since then, the RMAC has met with the sponsor of the nomination - the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition - to learn more about the river and discuss the nomination. We also conducted a site visit of the river with the sponsors on July 23, 2008. Later that day, the RMAC held a public hearing in Rochester in coordination with the Rivers Coordinator to receive public comment on the nomination. At the RMAC's September 5th meeting the RMAC reviewed all nomination materials for consistency with RSA 483 and the nomination rules, as well as public and elected officials input.

The RMAC was satisfied with the level of public support demonstrated for the nomination at the public hearing, and with the number of endorsements received from local, elected officials. Approximately 30 people attended the public hearing. All who testified at the hearing supported designation of the Cocheco River with the exception of one request to table the nomination. Letters of endorsement were received from three out of the five corridor communities. The proposed river segment classification designations also are appropriate based on the materials presented and the site review.

Therefore, the Rivers Management Advisory Committee recommends designation of the Cocheco River into the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program as submitted with the minor clarifications identified and inserted during the review process.

If you have any questions regarding our recommendation, please do not hesitate to call me at (603) 466 2721 x199 or kkimball@outdoors.org.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D., Chair
Rivers Management Advisory Committee

cc: Katherine W. Peters, Special Assistant for Policy, Governor's Office
RMAC Members (*via electronic mail*)
Harry Stewart, Director, Water Division, DES (*via electronic mail*)
Paul Currier, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, DES (*via electronic mail*)
Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, DES (*via electronic mail*)
Lorie Chase, Cocheco River Watershed Coalition (*via electronic mail*)
Cynthia Copeland, Executive Director, Strafford Regional Planning Commission (*via electronic mail*)
LRMAC Chairs (*via electronic mail*)